

**Request for Applications**  
**Issued by:**  
***Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities***

301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 95026

Nebraska State Office Building

Department of Health and Human Services

Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

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Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

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An application packet must be obtained by contacting the Council Office at  
402-471-2330 or [sharon.bartak@nebraska.gov](mailto:sharon.bartak@nebraska.gov)

The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities announced on June 1, 2010 the availability of funds for the State Plan priority area of Employment. The project would begin October 1, 2010. Applications are due by July 26, 2010. Money is available to fund one project for a maximum of \$50,000. Funding for this project comes from federal monies awarded the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, through the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act. Eligible applicants are profit and nonprofit entities, faith-based organizations, state agencies, institutions of higher education, or local subdivisions of government. Applicants will be expected to provide 30% match of the total project costs.

**Developmental Disability Definition**

The term “developmental disability” means a severe, chronic disability of a person that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (a) self-care; (b) receptive and expressive language; (c) learning; (d) mobility; (e) self-direction; (f) capacity for independent living; and (g) economic self-sufficiency;
- Reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;
- An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more functional limitations in major life activities, if the individual, without services and supports has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

### **Time Frame**

October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.

### **Amount of Funds**

The Council has set aside \$50,000 to fund one project in the Funding Priority Area of Employment. Two additional years of funding may be available. In order to receive continuation funding, the grantee must demonstrate appropriate activities in the previous year and must submit an application to be approved by members of the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities for the following year.

### **Reports and Delivery Dates**

1. Grantee shall commence work on this project **October 1, 2010**.
2. Grantee and the Department of Health and Human Services Developmental Disabilities Planning Council staff will communicate as needed but with a minimum of contact every three months.
3. Progress reports will be due to the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council staff two weeks following the end of each quarter (January 15, 2011, April 15, 2011, July 15, 2011, October 15, 2011). A final report will be due 30 days after the end of the grant year.

### **Additional Requirements**

1. Interested agencies must request an application packet by contacting the Council Office at 402-471-2330. Applicant must follow the application instructions provided in the packet.
2. Submitted applications must include signed cover sheet and certifications. Applicant must read the attached "Department of Health and Human Services Subgrant Terms and Assurances" and the other certifications included. Please note that by submitting and signing the application, the applicant agrees that if a subgrant is awarded, it will operate the program as described in the Subgrant Application for funding in accordance with the Subgrant Terms and Assurances. The individual signing these documents must be authorized to legally bind the applicant.
3. This document, together with the approved proposal of the grantee and the letter of award, shall constitute the entire agreement between DHHS and the grantee.
4. Proposals are due no later than **5:00 PM, Monday, July 26, 2010** to the:

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## **State Plan Goal – Employment**

**People obtain and keep employment consistent with their interest, abilities and needs.**

State Plan Employment Goal 1, Objective 3 – Increase coordination of employment services and supports provided to persons with developmental disabilities to maximize their effectiveness.

Focus – There is a renewed focus on employment with changes to state programs. The Developmental Disabilities Division has amended the Medicaid waivers to provide more flexibility in employment supports to persons with developmental disabilities. Vocational Rehabilitation is making use of the new incentives allowed under the Ticket to Work initiative to encourage greater interest in employment. Groups such as the Alliance for Full Participation have targeted employment as a priority and a state team has formed to identify priorities, set goals for employment initiatives, and outline a strategy for doubling Nebraska's rate of integrated employment by the year 2015. In order to support employment outcomes; individuals and families, service coordinators, vocational rehabilitation counselors, school personnel, and Developmental Disability providers need to work together. In some areas of the state these working relationships are successful but other areas struggle.

Some Issues identified –

- Vocational Rehabilitation staff may work with the staff from an agency rather than the individual which can result in responsibility being deferred to that agency.
- Service Providers may question the ability of the person to actually get a job in a competitive setting.
- Past histories and relationships among staff at various agencies are carried over to the present and influence how they interact.
- Jobs that transition age students have are frequently "owned" by the school so that when they graduate, they are not hired by the employer.
- A person being served by more than one agency may find themselves being caught in a dispute between who is responsible for assisting them in their job search.
- Employers may become confused when they must interact with multiple agencies in the employment process.
- Although all entities may have the same ultimate goal of employment, they each bring to the table different institutional histories and philosophies which they may not even be aware of.

**Intent:** It is the intent of the Council to fund one project with the goal of increasing the coordination at a local, regional or state level among agencies that provide employment supports for people with developmental disabilities. The ultimate outcome would be increased employment of people with developmental disabilities at a competitive wage in a job in which they work with others who do not have

disabilities. Strategies to achieve the expected coordination among individuals and agencies in the first year could include:

- Identification of programs/places where collaboration has resulted in employment success.
- Examination of how the success happened as well as what had to be done to get there.
- Development of an outline of what types of training, technical assistance, or facilitation would be needed to replicate successful programs.
- Identification of effective practices with employers that resulted in their hiring individuals with disabilities.
- Consideration of the impact of the attitudes of providers, families, and self-advocates about work and people with developmental disabilities.

Funding for two additional years will depend upon the outcomes of Year One and Council approval of a continuation application.